America's Only Monthly Revisionist Newsletter

Smith's Report

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NOTEBOOK

Bradley R. Smith

We have received more letters from readers the past few weeks than any other time that I can remember. A large number of them are critical, and focus on two matters – encapsulated in two sentences. The first is the statement made by Ralph Marquardt in **SR84** that at first startled me, and that after some soul searching I found I agreed with. He wrote: "Something that I think all of us should be aware of is the fact that, in my opinion, we will never be talking about the Jewish Holocaust the same way again."

In **SR85** I printed one response, by Albert Doyle, that was representative of the many critical reactions we were getting. The concern over this issue continues, the concern that CODOH may be backing away from *Holocaust* revisionism, which I want to assure you is not the case. But the approach is, in fact, hanging. Times change, tactics change, work changes. In any event, in this issue of **SR**, in Letters, Marquardt makes some additional observations on this issue.

The second statement that has drawn a large number of concerned, critical letters is something that I wrote myself. In my commentary that was published in the U of Akron *Buchtelite*, "Why is

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THE CAMPUS PROJECT: THE GOOD, THE BAD, AND THE BEAUTIFUL

Revisionist advertisements asking WHY? and referencing the Internet address of CODOHWeb have been running in a couple dozen campus newspapers. Accesses to revisionist materials on CODOHWeb remain high. We have distributed three more Op-Ed pieces to two hundred campus editors, which makes a total of four pieces so far this academic year. ***The Revisionist***, still the Internet's only Holocaust Revisionist E-zine has published half a dozen new articles, and CODOH's Discussion Forums continue to be logged onto more than 5,000 times daily. Pretty good.

As noted here last month, accesses to CODOHWeb soared to 910,000 hits. We figured some of it must be connected to the stunning events that were taking place in response to the WTC attack and the campaign in Afghanistan. Part was the placement of our new advertisement in campus newspapers from Boston College in Massachusetts to Portland State University on the West Coast. And part was the response to our distribution of opinion pieces every fifteen days to 200 campus editors nationwide, each article referencing the Internet address of ***The Revisionist***.

For a month or so I was pleased with how the work was going, particularly on a budget that is much reduced from previous years. As the weeks passed, my enthusiasm waned. While CODOH ads were being accepted at such a high rate that I had to stop submitting them because I would not be able to pay to run them, they were not creating stories in the mainline press. The ads are supposed to do two things: take people to CODOHWeb because that's where the information is,

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LETTERS

*We received more letters to the editor regarding Ralph Marquardt's views in **SR84** than anything that has appeared here in a very long time. Most of the letters were critical. In **SR85** I published one response by Albert Doyle, which reflected the primary direction of the criticism we are receiving. But the letters kept coming, from every side of the political spectrum. Again, based on those letters, I put a number of questions to Marquardt and am going to print his response below. I have edited out the specific criticisms received, as well as my own observations, for reasons of space. I think it will be clear from the text what some **SR** readers are concerned about, and the drift of my reaction.*

I just don't think the Holocaust per se is the issue it once was, because since the Irving trial the details are all out there and there's really no big disclosures being made. Not only that, I can't recall the last time "Holocaust Denial" was portrayed as the big problem that needs to be censored, etc. To be sure, I can think of some topics for revisionists to write about: for example, going over the various interrogations, and so on, but by and large I think that well is about pumped dry.

Put it another way, what's being discovered these days? Documents about people in the hospital at Auschwitz: well, we know that. Documents about the fact that the Auschwitz death register books were complete in 1945 in Sachsenhausen under Soviet custody but now we are missing the ones for 1944. That's important to revisionists, but it's not nearly as important as having the books themselves, which we don't have, and it's not the kind of thing to raise much of a stir in the general population. Look at Germar Rudolf's German language journal, which is usually months ahead of the English language stuff. With the last two issues he's writing about topical Mid East themes and/or the First World War!

Otherwise, virtually everything else was in the Irving Trial, one way or another. And there appears to be a broad consensus now that (a) the traditional story depends on eyewitnesses more than anything else, (b) that eyewitness testimony is unreliable, (c) that the Holocaust has been manipulated to smear Germany and to promote Israel.

True, there is not a broad consensus on the implications of these concessions. But that's not a matter of discovery, that's a matter of rhetorical argumentation. And it is difficult to make relevant rhetorical argument about these things when the Holocaust is not being invoked and shoved under our noses the way it was even a few months ago. I don't know about you all, but I am pleasantly surprised at how few references I have heard to the Holocaust in the past several months, and that's just the *word*: I can't even remember the last time I saw prominent media coverage about the hellish gas chambers of Camp XYZ.

So -- I am sure there are people doing research and writing it up but it seems to me that Holocaust revisionism is more a matter of persuasion at this point than fact-finding. And the persuasion aspect has a direct relationship to how much the H is being played up. The suicide bombing in that Tel Aviv disco would have been the perfect occasion for the other side to promote a Holocaust Propaganda Offensive. But none materialized.

What that means to me is that, if we want to get people interested in revisionism, we have to broaden our appeal. The 911 attack, and serious problems in the Middle East, are both well suited to this. It is topical, people really care about this, some of us are already very well versed in the subject. If we write on topical matters – it doesn't have to be terribly judgmental -- we can attract people to ***The Revisionist*** and then they can look at the other stuff on CODOHWeb as they like. And they will want to do so. We are a presence out there. True, there are those who will feel that we are "declaring victory" without tangible results. But what do we expect? A Nobel Prize?

Anyway, I think Middle Eastern commentary, for the short term, is the way to go. First, because it leads back to our traditional themes. Second, because it leads back to traditional revisionism. Third, because there are real issues of liberty and fairness involved. It would be different I suppose if there were other worldwide issues or domestic issues that needed to be addressed

I don't think you and I see things so differently, or that I see things very differently from those who have replied to what you printed. When I hear Bush say that "they" hate us because we are so wonderful I don't know whether to laugh or puke. Where you and I differ, and where I differ from some of those who have written **SR**, is that I am much more careful to be moderate in how I express myself. I think that you persuade people in stages, not all at once.

I think we all agree that generally we live in a world of pain and ought to be helping each other, and in the best of times that violence would have no role in this. But I am also practical minded enough to know that if some guy kills some of mine, if I don't kill him quick he will kill more. So I rationalize violence to myself in that way.

When I was in the Far East I used to go on liberty in the Philippines, Hong Kong, Singapore. Two things crossed my 18-year-old mind at that time: one, that my country is the luckiest and the richest country on the planet and owes the rest of the world a debt of gratitude. Two, that if the rest of the people of the world ever grasped the difference between them and us, in terms of wealth and space, they would descend on all of us and cut our throats and take it for themselves.

The dynamic of history is such that I guarantee that America will become more crowded and less wealthy and less equal among its citizens as time goes on. That's the way history is. We can approach that fate in two ways. We can fight it, and build

walls, and we will be destroyed, and all our institutions will be sacked. Or we can let the others in, just let it happen, and make sure that the hard core of Americanism, going back to the Founders, is preserved, lived up to, and passed on.

Revisionism and Dignity of the Defeated Countries

Guillaume Fabien

At Trieste, 6-7 October:

[*This item reports on a remarkable event that probably could not have taken place anywhere in Western Europe other than where it did. While I am not interested in socialist politics of either the left or the right, I am interested in revisionism and intellectual freedom, both of which are represented here. I regret that I have space for only the briefest outline of the original article by Guillaume Fabien.*]

A public meeting was held at "La Fiera" conference centre in Trieste at the weekend of 6-7 October on the theme "Revisionism and Dignity of the Defeated Countries", in which speakers of various nationalities took part. The event was organized by the local cultural association Nuovo Ordine Nazionale. The speakers included:

Jean-Louis Berger

The two-day gathering, scheduled on the initiative of Mr. Angelo Cauter, head of Nuovo Ordine Nazionale, began with a presentation by Mr. Jean-Louis Berger, former history teacher at a secondary school in France, convicted in court and expelled from the state education system for having told his pupils that the wartime camp of Norhausen in Germany had been a concentration camp, not an "extermination" camp, and that the corpses seen in a photograph presented in a French news weekly in such a way as to suggest that they were those of "victims of Nazism" were in fact the bodies of victims of an American air-raid. "And it's not just I who say so", he specified, "but other historians, people above all suspicion of 'anti-semitism', say so as well."

Vincent Reynouard

The young French historian Vincent Reynouard (32) was himself ousted from his job in a technical school and banished from the state school system for having made known, outside of his teaching work, some of his points of view in 20th century historiography. In his talk he underlined French and British responsibility for the famine inflicted upon Germany after the 1918 armistice, in the developments leading to German rearmament in the 1930s and in the outbreak of the Second World War.

Russ Granata

The American Russ Granata considered it impossible that the Israeli and US secret services could have been unaware of the attacks which were to be carried out on the Twin Towers and the Pentagon on 11 September.

Ahmed Rami

The Moroccan Islamist officer then addressed his European audience in these terms: "If the Jews want to create - in a land that they've stolen - a Jewish nationalist state, exclusively for Jews, then the Italians and the Germans and the French must also have the legitimate right to establish, in their countries, an exclusively Christian nationalist state. In this regard, and to respond to Jewish impudence, if I were Italian I would be - like you - a Christian, nationalist and Fascist, and if you were Moroccan you would certainly be - like me - Islamists!"

"Quite simply, if the Zionists have established a Jewish state (in occupied Palestine), what right have they to deny us a Christian state in Europe or an Islamic state in the Muslim world?"

Robert Countess

American professor Robert Countess's paper, which he had written for the big revisionist conference scheduled in Beirut in March but prohibited by the Lebanese government under Zionist and American pressure, was presented by this author. Countess stressed that the time had come for the leaders of the Arabo-Muslim countries to extend a broad welcome to revisionist work within their universities and to promote its development there, in order that national education programmes might subsequently be unburdened of the Allied propaganda of the last war which still passes for 'history.

Jürgen Graf

The Swiss scholar Jürgen Graf, without denying the wartime persecution of the Jews, rectified the number of victims: approximately 300,000, not 6 million. Replying to a lady in the audience who had asked why, over the years, all the various ministers of state of the Federal Republic of Germany, beginning with Konrad Adenauer, showed such assiduous respect for the lie that slandered their people, Graf said that the German state put in place by the Anglo-Americans was far from apt to defend the country's honour: if ever the revisionist message were to spread effectively throughout Germany, it would immediately trigger a revolution sweeping away that contemptible state and its crew made up very largely of traitors to their nation.

Fredrick Toben

Last to speak was the Australian Fredrick Töben, director of Adelaide Institute, who in Mannheim, Germany in 1999 was himself imprisoned awaiting trial for nearly a year

"If I am here today ... it's because I am persuaded that your group, with its revisionist vocation, constitutes a life-giving force in opposition to the many tremendously powerful bodies and state institutions that are leading our world to ruin. I salute your courage and your initiative, which in this public and - most significant - lawful gathering has realized an unquestionable success: you deserve all possible support. I am able to state quite legally in Italy, on the European continent, that the allegation, according to which the Germans systematically murdered European Jewry in homicidal gas chambers, in particular at Auschwitz concentration camp, is a lie! I could not, for example, do the same in Austria, France, Germany or Switzerland."

[If you want to read this interesting Report in its entirety, plus organizational background (about 4,600 words in total, or some 10 pages collected in a plastic cover) please send along a contribution of $10.]

CAMPUS PROJECT, Continued

and create press in mainline media. The ads were apparently doing the first, but appeared to be failing to do the second.

I could get the WHY? ad run because it contained no offensive word. It didn't mention the "Holocaust," for example. Holocaust is not an offensive word when those who are exploiting it use it, but when it's used by those who doubt even part of the story, Holocaust becomes offensive. It was necessary, the week following the attack on the WTC, that I not use any language that would appear to exploit the tragedies of 5,000 living families. WHY? was a sensible and even sophisticated response. But now it has run its course and I will turn to language that the H. Industry will find it very difficult to live with: "Committee for Open Debate on the Holocaust." Seven ordinary words. We'll see.

Next, I found that I was overly optimistic about my ability to have campus papers run my commentaries than I had convinced myself it would be. It wasn't hopeless. U of Cincinnati and the U of Akron had run one piece (see **SR85**), and then Portland State U *Vanguard* ran two of my commentaries (I've printed one of them below). Nevertheless, it's not much of a showing. Opinion pieces are like ads in some ways; one way is that editors read them whether they run them or not, and many of them go silently to CODOHWeb where they are introduced to revisionist scholarship. So it's not work that is entirely lost even though it might not be printed. Still, when I submit an opinion piece to a paper, I want to see it in print – often. It's not happening yet.

To this point, I submitted a fifth piece last week where I approach the material from a less objective-journalist point of view, but more personal, more "literary." I'll go at it this way for a couple months, long enough to see which way the wind blows. If this new approach doesn't work, I'll look for a third way, Perseverance is one of my few strong points. I'm reminded of the story I was told in grammar school about the English king who had been defeated in battle. He was hiding in the forest, sitting on a rock, when he noticed a spider slowly, methodically spinning its web. And the king was inspired by the spider's perseverance to fight on. I wonder why I can't recall the name of the king? I wonder if kids are still told that story?

I had been hopeful that our hits on CODOHWeb would remain over 900,000 and maybe climb even higher, but I was disappointed. During the thirty days between 16 October and 15 November documents on CODOH-Web were accessed only **788,000** times. But then I was cheered considerably by coming across a publication titled Holocaust Revisionism that was produced by the Defense Equal Opportunity Management Institute Research Directorate in 1996. DEOMIRD is associated with the Department of Defense and the publication is distributed to Armed Forces personnel. It is a survey of revisionism, revisionists, and revisionist activism and its dangers as of 1996.

The author is Captain (Chaplain) Carlos C. Huerta, who I understand is a rabbi. He devotes a couple pages to Smith, the history of Committee for Open Debate on the Holocaust, and the Campus Project. After giving a history of CODOH up to that time, he notes that Smith "has turned to disseminating revisionist material through the Internet. He has been successful in this endeavor. His Website had over 10,000 visits during a six month period." More than 10,000 visits in only six months! What a showing, eh? Nowadays we get 20,000 to 30,000 hits *every day!* Three and a half *million* every six months. Perseverance. It ain't everything, but it's better than having a stick poked in your eye.

When I turn to the references in the back of the DEOMIRD publication I note that Huerta got his information about our Website from the business that was "hosting" it at that time, a Fresno California company managed by a young Jewish fellow. The company was called ValleyNet. Shortly after the government publication appeared, ValleyNet closed down our Website without warning. Our Jewish friend who was managing ValleyNet would not even provide a forwarding address for those who were coming on board to read what we were publishing. All's fair in love, war, and whatever is necessary to maintain the Holocaust taboo. David Thomas got us another Internet server and we started all over again to build up a readership -- from scratch. So we fell off from 910,000 "visits" last month to only to 788,000. I can live with it. I'm not satisfied, but I can live with it.

Being not quite satisfied, I began thinking. My way of thinking is to keep my eyes and ears open, then follow my nose. I'm not certain if that's really thinking, but it's related to thinking, particularly if you do not reject what you see and hear

because of preconceived opinions. It became clear that I had two challenges – they were the same challenges that I have had from the beginning, but now they have to be addressed in new ways, again. I want to increase traffic on CODOHWeb, that being where the information is (have I said that before?), and I need to increase funding because my long suffering volunteer crew needs some paid assistants. Three or four (very) part-time volunteers, all with real lives and real jobs of their own to take care of, find it difficult to manage all the work necessary for a Website that is positioning itself to receive a million hits and more every month.

CODOHWeb itself still produces almost no income – less than one hundred dollars a month. I have never put much thought into raising money on CODOHWeb. All the funding I have received for ten years now comes from this very modest newsletter, ***Smith's Report***. My primary insight into this issue the last few weeks is that I have been a somewhat stupid about the organizational challenges facing me. Some of this has to do with family issues that I have written about here, my moving from one place to another and back again. But the core issue is that in some curious way I have been unaware of the significance of the very real accomplishments we have made in outreaching (I may have invented this word) this work, and the changing organizational issues that that success has created.

I became increasingly focused on two issues. One is that I must have product to sell that I can promote to increase funding. Two, that it must be product that will automatically promote CODOHWeb, a product that as I promote it, promotes CODOHWeb. Simple. As a matter of fact, I have two promotable, saleable products. *Smith's Report* and my book, *HATE: A True Story*. With regard to HATE, I was surprised to discover recently that I announced HATE almost *a year ago!* I was perusing a copy of the manuscript that a man in Washington had purchased, notated, and returned to me. My letter of thanks fell out of the manuscript. It was dated February was dated February 2001! I was really quite surprised that it was so long ago. But by that time I had moved to Visalia with my daughter and HATE was set aside during our troubles.

There is a great deal to say about how I am going to direct the work over the coming months, but the most important is that I am going to print HATE (with a new title) and that by the end of January I will be promoting both the book and ***Smith's Report*** to new audiences. And that, in turn, will promote CODOHWeb – because that is where all those I approach with these two products will be encouraged to go to find out more about each. Each of the three will promote and sell the other.

When I announced the book early this year about forty of you bought the work-in-progress and half of those who bought it sent me interesting and valuable reactions and suggestions. I believe I wrote here some months ago that that based on your suggestions I added four new chapters to the book. I changed the order of the materials so that the book leads with a different chapter, while what was previously the opening chapter is now the second. Now I have a new, post-World-Trade-Center chapter to end the book and bring it "up to date." In addition, while I leave the original pre-9/11 introduction, I have added a new post-9/11 introduction.

I am confident I can print the book in January because I will not have to have a budget of 6,000 to 8,000 dollars to print, bind and promote it. I can do what I need to do for less than $2,000, a sum I feel I can raise. Book publishing has been revolutionized since I published *Confessions of a Holocaust Revisionist* in 1987 – good grief, I was still in Hollywood then. Electronic (digital) publishing has come into being, as if from out of nowhere. For small publishers, or self-publishers, it's a whole new world. Digital publishing means that you format (typeset) your book on the computer, just like I format this newsletter, and email it to your printer. You do not need to print runs of 3,000 to 5,000 copies of the book to get a per-book price that is marketable. You can print runs, cost efficiently, as small as 500 copies. This means that costs for your first printing can be as much as eighty percent lower than it might have been ten years ago. Fewer books, yes, but a hugely reduced original investment.

My primary weakness as a writer is that I do not finish books, a prerequisite for a professional. I keep writing and writing but I don't finish anything. Two small books in thirteen years. Embarrassingly unprofessional. But the new book model (Dan Poynter of ParaPublishing uses the term) provides an astounding advantage to a writer like me. I can just keep working away on this book. *I never have to "finish" it!* In January I print a small run and set out to promote it. Using some of the traditional methods of promotion, but focusing on exploiting all the advantages of the Internet and email. The work will be to get it reviewed, get it criticized, get it noticed. I do not have to depend on bookstores, or book chains, or direct marketing using the US Postal Service. I can do (almost) all my promotion using the Internet and CODOHWeb.

I will have a page on CODOHWeb devoted to the book alone. I will solicit reviewers and journalists to visit the page. The page will have a press kit with my biography, my history working with revisionism, testimonials, news releases and so on. I'll send email pitch letters to reviewers, print editors, and Internet E-zines offering them free reading copies. I'll publish a different chapter from the book each month as a tease to browsers.

There will be a secure program to buy the print version of the book using credit cards. Maybe most important of all, I can do radio, and this time on top of promoting "free" revisionist information to radio audiences, I will have a product to sell. I know how to do radio, I did a lot of it, and I look forward with some enthusiasm to doing it again – because it will create a small stream of revenue, and because of my interest in the product itself.

But here is the real kicker. The first small printing of the book will soon be gone. I will have given many

of them to reviewers, to campus newspapers as well as the mainline press, and I will have sold some. I will have used some copies to raise funding for the second printing. And all the while I will be working on the manuscript, adding a couple, maybe three new chapters (I have maybe twenty chapters in the bank that need relatively little work). I will correct whatever glaring flaws of logic or presentation that will have been pointed out to me, and in six months I will be ready to do a new, updated edition of the book -- and begin the promotion and selling cycle all over again. And with every printing the book will be better, bigger, more valuable. It will never go dead. About the time media believes it has heard the last of it – there I'll be again, new, fresh, bigger and better than ever. What a plan!

Usually I do not go into such details about a future project because of the always-present possibility that I will be unable to carry it out to completion. But here I am, committing myself publicly to this one, because I have no doubt whatever that I can do it. I have no way of knowing how successful it will be, but I have a very good feeling about it. The project fits me perfectly. And there is a great deal more to it. I am not being prudent by not going into it all, it's just that this newsletter would not accommodate all the information that I have to pass along. Having a real product to sell! The American dream come true!

[*If you would like a copy of the informative government survey (noted above) of Holocaust Revisionism published in 1996 I'll photocopy it for you, gather it in a spiral binding with plastic covers and send it along. The format is 8 ½ x 11, one side of the sheet. Self cover. 20 pp. Send what you want. $10 would be nice. More would not be taken as a deliberate insult.*]

Portland State University

The Vanguard

October 11, 2001

Let us now contrast two men of principle

In My Opinion
Guest Writer

Bradley R. Smith

Terrorism, war and violence. What's the difference? Depends on who does it, and who it's done to. Media-speak. A terrorist act is always violent, but violence is not always terrorism. War is always violent but is never terrorism. Grammar becomes a moral issue.

On 7 October I caught President George W. Bush on television.

President Bush said: "Good afternoon. On my orders, the United States military has begun strikes against al Qaeda terrorist training camps and military installations of the Taliban regime in Afghanistan. These carefully targeted actions are designed to disrupt the use of Afghanistan as a terrorist base of operations, and to attack the military capability of the Taliban regime.

He said: "Today we focus on Afghanistan, but the battle is broader. Every nation has a choice to make. In this conflict, there is no neutral ground. If any government sponsors the outlaws and killers of innocents, they have become outlaws and murderers, themselves. And they will take that lonely path at their own peril.'

Later in the day I saw Osama Bin Laden on television. We should thank the gods for this wonderful little machine.

Osama bin Laden said: "As for the United States, I tell it and its people these few words: I swear by Almighty God who raised the heavens without pillars that neither the United States nor he who lives in the United States will enjoy security before we can see [security] as a reality in Palestine and before all the infidel armies leave the land of Muhammad, may peace be upon him."

President Bush said: "The United States of America is a friend to the Afghan people, and we are the friends of almost a billion worldwide who practice the Islamic faith. The United States of America is an enemy of those who aid terrorists and of the barbaric criminals who profane a great religion by committing murder in its name."

He said: "We did not ask for this mission, but we will fulfill it. The name of today's military operation is Enduring Freedom. We defend not only our precious freedoms, but also the freedom of people everywhere to live and raise their children free from fear."

Osama bin Laden said: "One million Iraqi children have thus far died in Iraq [because of U.S. sponsored sanctions against Iraq] although [Iraqi children] did not do anything wrong. Despite this, we heard no denunciation by anyone in the world .... Israeli tanks and tracked vehicles wreak havoc in Palestine, Jenin, Ramallah, Rafah, Beit Jala and other Islamic areas and we hear no voices raised...."

President Bush said: "A Commander-in-Chief sends America's sons and daughters into a battle in a foreign land only after the greatest care and a lot of prayer. We ask a lot of those who wear our uniform. We ask them to leave their loved ones, to travel great distances, to risk injury, even to be prepared to make the ultimate sacrifice of their lives."

He said: "I recently received a touching letter that says a lot about the state of America in these difficult times—a letter from a 4th-grade girl, with a father in the military: "As much as I don't want my Dad to fight," she wrote, "I'm willing to give him to you."

Osama bin Laden said: "I say that the matter is clear and explicit. [The Americans] came out to fight Islam in the name of terrorism. Hundreds of thousands of people, young and old, were killed in the farthest point on earth in Japan [in the nuclear destruction of the civilian populations of Nagasaki and Hiroshima]. For [America] this is not a crime, but rather a debatable issue. They bombed Iraq and considered that a debatable issue."

And now there are the television images of the magnificent airplane banking coolly and professionally into one of the World Trade Center towers, and the great towers imploding in on themselves in scenes of staggering catastrophe. The tragedy has become a theatrical production on a world stage. Arab children, humiliated and brutalized in the back streets of the West Bank and Gaza and Baghdad are already dreaming of giving their fathers and brothers to Osama bin Laden.

George W. Bush and Osama bin Laden. Two men of principle talking past each other. One praises terrorism and maybe organized the intentional mass killing of civilians in New York City. The second ignores the intentional mass killing of civilians in Iraq, Beruit, Palestine and Japan – now pursues a war "against" terrorism. Each talks of God, morality, and justice. We have to ask ourselves: what is significant in being a man of principle? Of what use is principle to human culture? Surely it has a place. Somewhere.

[Bradley R. Smith is publisher of ***The Revisionist***]

NOTEBOOK CONTINUED

why US is a terrorist target" (my original title was "Why Do Islamic Radicals Want to Kill Americans?"), I quote one of Osama bin Laden's associates who was involved with the original attack on the World Trade Center six years ago.

In the *New York Times* he was quoted raising the issues of the U.S. nuclear destruction of the civilian populations of Nagasaki and Hiroshima, the fire-bombing of Tokyo which was largely a wooden city, the poisoning of much of the rural areas of Vietnam with chemicals (agent orange, etc), that the U.S. went to war in the 20th century more than any other country on earth, the economic embargo and endless bombing campaign against Iraq that kills mainly the old and the children, and so on. And I reprinted a few words of his statement to the court: "I support terrorism so long as it [is] against the United States government and against Israel, because you are more than terrorists.... You are butchers, liars and hypocrites."

I wrote: "Rings a bell for me."

A good number of you were annoyed, or worse, by this wisecrack, which nevertheless does express my feelings. It all rings a bell for me. Because it does, I am charged with being unpatriotic, particularly at this time in our collective lives. There are those who feel that this is not the time to rehash old grievances, as it there hate for America? Theories on were, but to get behind the American Government in its "war on terror." It is a just war, and the most responsibly carried out war in our history, and those managing it are preoccupied with trying to not kill Afghan civilians. This last is certainly true. I think on the face of it, the former is true as well. Osama is in the way of civilized life on the planet and he and his friends have got to gotten out of the way.

But it is true – while I am grateful to be an American, I am not a patriot. What I mean be that is that I do not believe that Americans are better than others, or that I owe my best human qualities to Americans while I do not owe them to others. I am constantly reminded of the fact, I feel something resembling awe, that when the American government was formed there was such a magnificent coincidence of the necessary men, high ideals, historical opportunity, space, and good luck to create the two documents which we still, more or less, live by – the Constitution and the Bill of Rights.

After more than two centuries we still live in the remnants of a free society and there is still no government on earth that rules with such a document. At the same time, the U.S. Congress and one Administration after another has, in fact, acted out the role of "liars, butchers and hypocrites."

Meanwhile, I am pleased that the campaign in Afghanistan has got off to a good start, as these things go. But Afghanistan is not the war. Afghanistan is simply the first campaign of what we are told is to be a "War" On Terrorism. No campaign is over until it's over. We have no idea what the "blow-back" is going to be. It may very well be more "campaigns." Those who are in the forefront of the suppression of revisionist theory, are in the forefront of pitching us another war against Iraq. I think most revisionists understand that the attack on the World Trade Center was blow-back from fifty years of stupid, lying, hypocritical and bloody U.S. foreign policies in the Middle East, not the least of which is U.S. support of the failed State of Israel – which failed when it began.

This is not a unique point of view. A minority of people all over the West holds it, and a majority of people throughout the Muslim world holds it. The U.S. Government is run by good, decent men who, as a class, act out the roles of liars, butchers and hypocrites. I am not devoted to such a class of men. I do not despise them. I would be pleased to have any among them as my friend. But I do not despise their enemies either, almost any of whom I would like to have for my friend. I suppose that is why I cannot count myself as an American patriot. If anything, I am a patriot of the American Bill of Rights.

A GERMAN NOTE

Guenter Grass, the German literary "giant," who holds a Nobel Prize for Literature, is quoted as stating "Israel must not only get out of [the] occupied territories. Even the seizure of Palestinian land is a criminal act. This must not only stop, it must be revoked. Otherwise peace will never be restored there." Paul Spiegel, president of the Central Council of Jews in Germany said: "If one examines his words more closely, then his message is: Israel must vanish ... With these words, Grass places himself on a level with Israel's radical enemies." Spiegel is right. I never expected this from Grass. I doubt that very many Germans expected it either. I wonder what is going through the minds of the German literati.

OTHER STUFF

I hear from readers regularly asking about our daughter, Paloma, wishing her the best, wishing all of us the best, oftentimes in language that is wonderfully simple and graceful.

.Paloma has finished five month's internment now and she is doing very well. We visit her on Sundays for two hours. There was some strain between us at first, but now that is gone. It's plain to us that she is better off where she is than when she was at home with us. I never thought I would say that.

The place where she is, CRREAD – in English in would be Center for the Recuperation and Rehabilitation of Alcoholics and Drug Addicts – is the last place we would have thought of placing her. We asked everyone in town; teachers, shrinks, doctors, the police we had become acquainted with, neighbors, friends. Everyone warned us away from the place. I think now it was because CRREAD is so ramshackle, has such an air of poverty about it, that it was being judged by it appearance. But we were stuck. We had no money to put her in a real detox center, and then this place is in the hills only half an hour from where we live. We could keep our eye on things.

The Center at the end of a dirt road in a little gulch with a dry creek running through the center of the small courtyard. When we first took her there the female dormitory had only tweleve bunk beds but over thirty girls. Paloma had to share one bunk bed with a lady about thirty-five years old. No running water. The kitchen is a shed open to the elements. Water for bathing is heated by a wood fire under a fifty gallon drum in the small dirt courtyard. There are over a hundred men in the Center, stuffed into dark, crowded dormitories. At fifteen, Paloma is still the youngest internee.

The whole place is run by addicts and alcoholics, from the director on down, some of whom have recovered. There's not a professional in sight. The only treatment is the one you hear about at AA meetings in the States. One after the other the internees step up in front of his assembled companions, states his/her name, what he used to get him where he is, and then begins to tell his story. There is no other therapy. I believe it is very difficult for internees to not evade what is really at the bottom of their addiction.

Interning Paloma in CRREAD has proved to be the most intelligent guess we have made about life in the last three years. Paloma is doing just fine. It's as if she has turned full around. Irene and I are doing just fine too.

CRRIAD has provided four simple things for Paloma that we did not. She is absolutely separated from those who are using drugs now. Her day is structured from morning till night. She is closely supervised. And she has constant companionship. Sounds commonplace. It is. But I never needed any of that when I was a kid and I wasn't smart enough to see that she does. I see it now. I am reminded again of the note that Robert Faurisson wrote me a few months ago. It said: "No one (no one!) knows how to raise a child." Every time I recall Robert's note I am reminded of the mystery of personality, and of life.

Two Fridays ago I drove out to CRREAD to pick up Paloma for her fist visit to town. There would be an opening that night for an exhibition of photographs, she has some sleight interest in photography, and this would be her first time "out" except once when she had to see a doctor. When Paloma came out the narrow passageway with her little duffle bag and we walked down the dirt road toward the car everyone we passed asked in Spanish if she were leaving for good. "No, no," she had to say a dozen times. "It is only for the night." One man with a shovel called out after us: "Thank God that you are coming back. You are like the light of the sun for this place."

I don't know if she is the light of the sun for everyone at CRREAD, but she is for us. I think she will be home for Christmas.

I expect to reach you again before Christmas, but if something happens and I don't, I hope each one of you has a fine season, and that the New Year is better than the one that is ending, no matter that it might have been extraordinary for you. Although I'm erratic in expressing my gratitude for you support over the years, I am very grateful indeed.

Bradley

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